

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W

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R 310740Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 898

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

US DOCOSOUTH

SHAPEUSNR

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US DOCSOUTH FOR INTAF

SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC DEFLECTS PCI PROPOSAL FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: ROME 17775

1. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC) HAVE REMAINED FIRM IN THEIR RESOLVE NOT TO ACCEPT THE COMMUNIST PROPOSAL FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARC ON THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC PROGRAM. FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE DC LEADERSHIP, PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI READ A COMMUNIQUE WHICH INSTEAD PROPOSES, IN AGREEMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI) THAT THE GOVERNMENT SPONSOR A DEBATE

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IN PARLIAMENT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. ZACCAGNINI SAID

THAT "PARLIAMENT APPEARS TO BE THE BEST PLACE FOR A USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE." ANDREOTTI WILL ACCORDINGLY REQUEST THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER (INGRAO) TO SCHEDULE THE DEBATE (WHICH IN VUHW OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITMENTS PROBABLY COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE WEEK OF NOV. 8) WHICH IS TO BE FOLLOWED BY WHAT WILL ESSENTIALLY BE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO SWEETEN THE REPLY, THE DC COMMUNIQUE ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE OTHER PARTIES AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE PCI. THUS, THE STATEMENT NOTES "THE RELEVANT CONTRIBUTION THAT THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES--THE PCI AMONG THEM--PROVIDE FOR THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE PCI CAN HARDLY BE PLEASED WITH THE DC'S RESPONSE (TODAY'S UNITA LABELS IT AS "EVASIVE"), SINCE IT DOES NOT FURTHER THE PCI OBJECTIVE OF FORMALIZING ITS ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT. BY INSISTING THAT THE "CONFRONTO" TAKE PLACE ONLY IN PARLIAMENT, THE DC PRESERVED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE PCI IS IN NO WAY PART OF THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. RATHER THAN RISK MODIFICATION OF THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK (AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR), THE DC PREFERRED TO TAKE THE OTHER RISK--THAT IN REJECTING THE LEFT'S PROPOSAL, THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT (THROUGH ABSTENTIONS) IN PARLIAMENT COULD DETERIORATE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, DISPUTES, DEBATES, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ROME17815  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760406-0359  
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**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ROME 17775  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DC DEFLECTS PCI PROPOSAL FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, IT, PCI, DC, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO), (ZACCAGNINI, BENIGNO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006